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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, remind us often of the importance of Your presence in our lives. Make us aware of our need for Your guidance, and empower us to reach out to others in Your Name.

Lord, teach us to pray, and sustain us by the wonder of Your words. Give us truths that will strengthen our minds, souls, and hearts. In times of distress, grief, confusion, and misunderstanding, illuminate our paths with the light of Your companionship.

Guide our lawmakers in their challenging work, for You have promised never to leave or forsake them. Infuse all of us with a spirit that will cause people to glorify You.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we are turning to consideration of the De-

partment of Defense appropriations bill. Chairman STEVENS and Senator INOUE are ready for Senators to come forward with their amendments. We hope to have an agreement that all first-degree amendments will be filed at the desk no later than 5 p.m. today. The Democrat leader and I were just talking to that effect, and we will continue to work for the next several minutes on that.

This would enable the two managers to review—and this is very important—allow them to review the legislative language to see what amendments may be acceptable on both sides. We have been unable to lock that agreement in place at this time, but I will continue to talk with the Democrat leader to see if that would be possible.

As I previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today or tomorrow in observance of the Rosh Hashanah holiday. Any votes ordered today or tomorrow will occur at sundown on Wednesday. In all likelihood, we will be staying votes at that time.

Having said that, we will be in discussion during this period, so Members can come forward and offer their amendments. I encourage Members to come to the Senate and not wait until later in the week. We are going to finish this bill before our next recess. We are making real progress on the appropriations bills. We need to continue that process. As we all know, the fiscal year has just passed. We are working on a continuing resolution. It is critical we continue to make progress on these bills. We have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week to complete the Department of Defense appropriations bill. I hope we will be able to finish it Wednesday or Thursday, but we are not going to leave until we complete this bill.

A number of other pieces of very important legislation are being discussed, debated, talked about, and written. One of those is the pensions legislation. The Committee on Finance and Com-

mittee on HELP have a bipartisan package on which we expect to reach a unanimous consent agreement so we can consider that bill this week as well.

NOMINATION OF HARRIET MIERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this is a momentous day in the history of our Nation. For the first time in two decades, a new Chief Justice ascends to the bench of the highest Court in the land. Today, John Roberts is leading the Supreme Court as the 17th Chief Justice of the United States. And today, with the nomination of Harriet Miers as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, we are faced with yet another opportunity to shape the course of history.

President Bush's choice of Harriet Miers demonstrated a thoughtful, careful, and discerning selection. Once again, the President reached out in a bipartisan way to more than 80 Senators. Once again, the President chose a qualified nominee for our High Court.

During her distinguished 35-year legal career, Ms. Miers has demonstrated her expertise as a talented attorney in both private practice and in public service. In every sense, Harriet Miers has been a true trailblazer and a role model for women in the legal profession.

As a young attorney, she overcame numerous obstacles to become the first female hired by her Dallas law firm. She impressed her colleagues so much that they elected her president of the firm, making her the first woman to lead a Texas firm of that size.

Ms. Miers has been a pillar of leadership in the legal community. She was the first female elected president of the Dallas Bar Association and head of the State Bar of Texas. She has served as trusted adviser to President Bush in various capacities and currently serves as White House Counsel.

Since she has not served as a judge, she will bring a unique perspective to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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